

of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, and the single mission Air Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, as well as others.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Colonel Wendling who make the United States the greatest nation on the face of the earth. His commitment to serving our country and his community should serve as a shining example to the next generation.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the countless people his leadership has impacted, I wish Colonel Wendling all the best upon his retirement. His tireless service to our country will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 2018 MEXICAN AMERICAN COUNCIL SCHOLARS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Mexican American Council (MAC), the Garza family, and the 2018 MAC Scholars.

On May 29th, the Mexican American Council celebrated the 34th Annual Farmworker Student Recognition Ceremony at the Homestead Miami Speedway.

In 1984, MAC's founder Cip Garza began this prestigious event to honor the academic achievements of Miami-Dade County's farmworker graduates.

In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Career Source South Florida, MAC awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships this year.

I wish to congratulate the following students on their phenomenal success and include the 2018 MAC Scholars in the RECORD:

Kassandra Castillo
Luis Diaz-Lopez
Jazmin S. Espinoza
Jenri Guerrero
Lissette Hernandez
Ugenie Jean
Kevyn Jimenez
Aleena Jones
Mari Marquez
Christella Nazaire
Blanca Rosas
Sinttia Rosas
Naila Sanchez
Manaika Saintyl
Giselle Trejo-Ramirez
Dulce Velasquez
Noelia Villa

Mr. Speaker, Cip and Maria Garza have done so much to benefit the lives of countless migrant families and Hispanic students in South Florida. I would like to thank them and everyone else at the Mexican American Council for all their tireless work. Once again, congratulations to all of the 2018 MAC Scholars, their enthusiasm, creativity, and entrepreneurship represent the best values of our diverse nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 295.

RECOGNIZING THE WINDSOR/STEWARTSON-STRASBURG HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg High School Softball Team. The WSS Hatchets are now the 2018 IHSA Class 1A State Champions.

The Hatchets won the state title game 8-5 to cap off a season with a record of 28 wins and four losses before facing the Goreville Blackcats in an exciting championship game. The Blackcats had a terrific performance, mounting a comeback after facing a six-run deficit to begin the game. However, due to their stellar pitching and timely hitting, the WSS Hatchets earned a hard-fought and well-deserved victory.

I would like to congratulate the entire WSS Softball Team on their victory: Megan Schlechte, Machenzi Tabbert, Ava Bennett, Hannah Hayes, Mackinzie Reynolds, Carson Cole, Sydney Taber, Katrina Davis, Mackenzie Brown, Theresa Davis, Anna Schlechte, Taylor Rentfro, Calla Roney, Madison Everett, Kassie Vonderheide, Makenna Taber, Paig Rentfro, Maggie Kelly and their coach Craig Moffett. Congratulations on a superb end to a great season.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg High School Softball Team in winning the 2018 IHSA Class 1A State Title. I wish the team and their coach all the best in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KARL WICKSTROM

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Florida Sportsman founder Karl Wickstrom, who passed away on June 26, 2018 in Stuart, Florida.

Throughout his life, he was a passionate and inspiring champion for Florida's waterways. For decades, he supported organizations like the Rivers Coalition in the fight for cleaner waters in our community. His strong legacy of environmental activism will live on in the important work that each of the organizations he supported continues to do.

In addition to his lasting legacy in the form of laws protecting Florida's environment, he is also responsible for inspiring an entirely new

generation of champions for clean water. Because of his journalism and activism, his ideas for environmental protection will continue to reverberate through our communities for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon all of us to take up this legacy, continue his fight, protect our estuaries and send the water south. While we continue to mourn the loss of this environmental visionary and pray for his family, let us also use this opportunity to fulfill his vision for a safer, healthier and stronger Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during this vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 287, and YEA on Roll Call No. 288.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, I missed Roll Call votes 289 and 290. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call 289 regarding the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018 and YES on Roll Call 290 related to H.R. 5783.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE T. VENDETTO, SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Connecticut's most dedicated public servants, Mr. Wayne T. Vendetto, Sr. Mr. Vendetto passed away in February, and I would be remiss not to take a moment to reflect on his years of dedication to his hometown. He was a patriot, a first responder, a democrat, a family man, and above all, a community servant.

A native of New London, CT, Wayne graduated from New London High School in 1962. In addition to his career at Sears, Roebuck & Co., he was a Connecticut State Marshal for 40 years.

Wayne honorably defended his country in the Connecticut National Guard and as a reservist. He also protected his neighbors as a volunteer firefighter and foreman at the former F.L. Allen Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 for 10 years, and was president of the New London Firemen's Association. In this capacity Wayne became famous for hosting the association's convention and parades, considered to be the biggest and best in the state.

Wayne was also active in local politics. He served on the New London Board of Education for 10 years and eventually became a